

# **Explore Flow**

















# **Our Voyage**

We view our educational journey as being like a river voyage. It isn't linear and may have some unexpected meanders. We are all on a voyage to the same destination, however we are all in our own boat and we may not all navigate the river in the same way. At different times we may need more crew members or buoys to help us reach our destination.

Our curriculum voyage begins with our school vision and values and is then planned based on our knowledge and understanding of our learners. We have an ambitious curriculum, which is broadly based on the national curriculum but also ensure that they very specific and complex needs of our cohort are met and they get what they need to reach their destination safely.

Our curriculum has four separate flows, which have been designed based on our understanding of our learners. Pupils are allocated to flows based on their Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs. They access curriculum subjects and a range of other learning according to their needs and being in a particular flow does not place a restriction on their ability to success academically. Pupils can move across flows as required.

The structures and the delivery of the curriculum will differ significantly across flows, because decisions about how we implement our curriculum are informed by the needs of our learners.

needs of our learners.











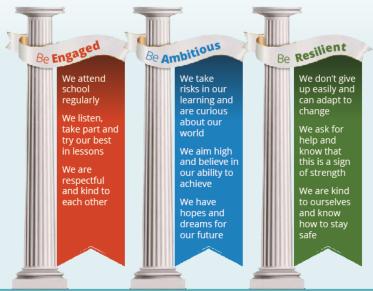






# **Explore flow**

At NeneGate School, we are dedicated to offering a nurturing school environment, enabling all our learners to feel safe and thrive. We celebrate each individual's qualities by keeping the child at the centre of all we do, offering a flexible curriculum and holding equally high aspirations and expectations for all our pupils. We challenge our pupils to reach their full potential and to develop hopes and dreams for their future, in order that they can move on to the next stage of their education as engaged, ambitious and resilient young people, who can make a positive difference to society and live life to the full.



This Charter sets out our expectations for how we learn and work together within The Nenegate School Community.

ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT EXCELLENCE

BOUNDARIES OF LEARNING





















The Explore flow ...

This flow lives out our ethos through our pillars:

Be engaged: Explore learners will be developing their ability to engage independently within a nurturing, safe learning environment underpinned by therapeutic thinking. Adult support will reflect the needs of individual learners and they will have access to a trusted adult at all times in the classroom. Delivery will be based on discrete subjects as well as topic-based learning. Learners will have an enhanced understanding of how they can show respect and look after their learning environment and each other.

Be ambitious: Our Explore flow is structured to support learners to engage in an ambitious curriculum focusing on engaging with core and foundation subjects, some of which are taught discretely. This curriculum is ambitious and continues to prioritise immersive and concrete learning experiences.

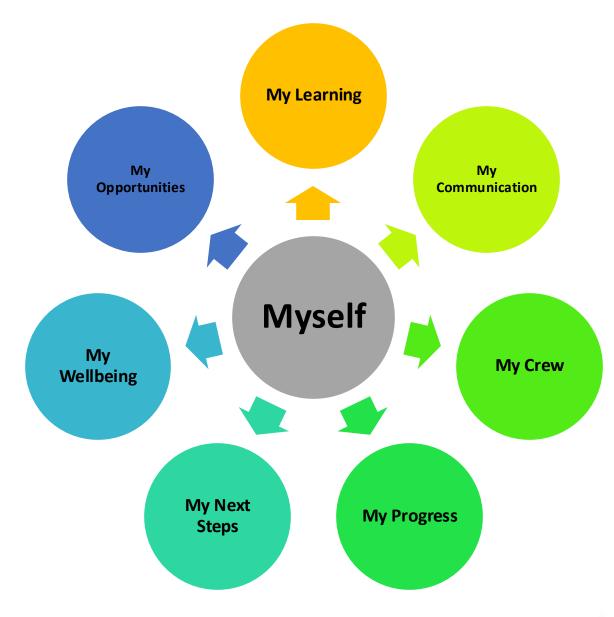
**Be resilient:** Explore learners may still need co-regulation and are more willing to accept this while also using their own independent self-regulation strategies at times. Trusted adults are essential to support feelings of safety to enable them to feel comfortable taking controlled risks and developing their circle of adults and peers.



Everyone's curriculum will centre on what we know about them, what they want and need, and the knowledge, visions and priorities of parents, carers and other professionals.

We think about future outcomes and put Personalised Learning Goals (PLGs) and strategies in place to begin the journey of equipping them with skills that will lead to a future where they can be happy, communicate as well as they can and be as independent as possible.

There are eight aspects to our curriculum. All parts are needed to engage our learners in being a well-rounded individuals.

















# **Curriculum Flows**

The 'My Voyage' curriculum has four distinct flows. We can imagine those as four flows in the same river. While they may diverge and take different routes, they will still lead our learners to the same end destination. Learners aren't limited to the flow they are in, they are able to travel into other flows as appropriate.

## **Explore Flow**

- Pupils are able to access some discrete subject learning with more intensive adult support.
- Core subjects are delivered by class teachers with direction and support from subject leads.
- Many foundation subjects are delivered via a half termly topic, which runs across a three year cycle.
- There is a heavy focus on interventions in order to close gaps in knowledge and support progress towards achieving PLGs. These interventions span the four areas of SEND.
- These pupils are based predominantly in their safe class base and have access to trusted adults in the classroom at all times
- Where necessary pupils will have an individually adapted curriculum to support engagement in learning and to ensure that their SEMH needs ate met.
- They will use specialist teaching spaces with support but the curriculum can also be adapted to take the learning to their safe base.
- The delivery of the planned curriculum will be adapted to include more opportunities for concrete learning and kinaesthetic experiences.
- In Key Stage 4 there will be a focus on a vocational curriculum and qualifications, although GCSEs are available to all. Some pupils may access external vocational provision.
- Pupils will access positive activities and enrichment, which will allow them to extend the boundaries of learning and also develop their social and communication skills.















# Explore flow – Learner Characteristics

To plan our curriculum we begin with our learners and a clear understanding of their needs

## Self-regulation

- Explore learners need co-regulation and usually recognise they need it.
- They are continuing to develop strategies to manage their feelings and use them with prompts and adult modelling.

## **Making Relationships**

- Explore learners have a small circle of trusted adults and peers but these relationships are fragile and inconsistent and they still find it difficult to trust others.
- They are more likely to have trusted adults, struggling more with peer relationships.

# **Managing Transition**

 Explore learners need consistent routines but are able to engage in microtransitions more successfully. They need a safe base to return to and a feeling of belonging. They need adult support for transitions.

### Communication

• Explore learners are becoming more effective in communicating their needs. They are developing an improved capacity to communicate verbally when dysregulated. They may not adopt their communication strategies consistently. They are developing a range of vocabulary to describe their emotions and an understanding of reciprocal communication and social cues. They may use detrimental language or behaviours to communicate their feelings.

#### Attention

• Explore learners can attend for prolonged periods of time if an activity is of their own choosing and of interest. They are developing the ability to shift their attention from their own activity to an adult – led activity, but their engagement in this can be very limited. They can maintain an independent task set by an adult with appropriate scaffolds.

#### Self-actualisation

• Explore learners are developing a sense of identity but can find it difficult to understand the concept of developing their potential or improving themselves. They can be motivated by short to medium term goals, which have extrinsic rewards, but can be easily demoralised and lack the resilience to continue when they are faced with difficulties. They may catastrophise when experiencing a setback. They will often find it difficult to accept responsibility for their actions.















# Myself

The Explore flow provides the support, structure and flexibility needed for learners to thrive in education and beyond.

The Explore flow is centred around individual needs, ensuring a nurture-based approach that increasingly encourages independence in learning.

We understand that our learners face many different challenges, our role is to remove these barriers. Support might look different for each pupil, even if they are on the same flow.

On the Explore flow this support could include:

- Individual adaptation to support accessing learning independently
- Targeted interventions focusing on PLGs
- Visual supports or cues
- Emotional regulation strategies
- Individual adaptations to the curriculum
- Real life experiences
- Multi-sensory opportunities



















Explore learners need co-regulation but do not always want it or consistently recognise they need it. They are continuing to develop strategies to manage their feelings and use them with prompts and adult modelling. Supporting them with the tools they need to identify and manage their feelings and emotions is an essential part of their curriculum to enable them to be as independent as possible in the next stage of life.

Learners in the Explore flow access therapeutic support as well as the NeneGate My Wellbeing curriculum. This includes lessons supplemented by using resources from Jigsaw and the PSHE association, NSPCC and other sources for themed days. There is also a focus on Communication, Emotional literacy, managing feelings, improving self-esteem and how to improve relationships and Dental hygiene. For the Explore flow, My wellbeing is taught in discrete lessons, at KS3 by a subject specialist.





















Effective communication is central to the delivery of our Explore flow curriculum. Explore learners are becoming more effective in communicating their needs. They are developing an improved capacity to communicate verbally when dysregulated. They may not adopt their communication strategies consistently. They are developing a range of vocabulary to describe their emotions and an understanding of reciprocal communication and social cues. They may use detrimental language or behaviours to communicate their feelings.

Adaptations and scaffolds to support effective communication may include:

- Visual supports
- Sensory supports
- Movement breaks
- Bespoke interventions (individual and group)
- Speech and Language interventions
- Processing time



e.g. sh, t, p, m

# **Pragmatics**

Using language socially; conversations, body language, collaborative play, perspective talking

# **Talking**

Expressive Language
Words (vocabulary) & using sentences
(grammar)

# **Understanding**

Receptive Langauge Following instructions/directions, understanding questions

# Play

Functional, symbolic, imaginative, pretend

# **Attention & Listening**

Waiting, anticipation completing short tasks (e.g. puzzle)

# Pre-Verbal & Early Interaction

Eye contact, turn-taking, pointing, cause & effect, symbolism, joint attention

















# Reading Oracy

It is crucial for children to develop a life-long love of Reading, fundamental in order to develop engagement with learning. This is achieved in the Explore pathway through a planned English subject curriculum along with appropriate interventions. There is a focus on engaging with high quality literature linked to the English curriculum that aims to support our learners to personally experience and make real life connections to stories, that supports information processing and builds vocabulary ensuring meaningful reading opportunities for every learner.

The teaching of reading begins as soon as our pupils walk through the door at NeneGate through our phonics programme, Little Wandle. Little Wandle draws on the latest research into how pupils learn best; how to ensure learning stays in pupil's long term memory and how best to enable children to apply their learning to become competent readers.

The development of learners spoken language underpins all areas of learning and development, interactions form the foundations for language and cognitive development Exposure to high quality conversations with staff and peers throughout the day in a language rich environment is crucial. By commenting on what learners are interested in or doing, and echoing back what they say with new vocabulary added, practitioners will build learner's language effectively. Reading frequently to learners and engaging them actively in stories, non fiction, rhymes and poems, and then providing them with extensive opportunities to use and embed new words in a range of contexts, will give learners the opportunity to thrive.

Through conversation, story telling and role play, where learners share their ideas with support and modelling from their teacher, and sensitive questioning that invites them to elaborate, learners become comfortable using a rich range of vocabulary and language structures. Exposure to different reasons for language are promoted termly through rhymes, poems and songs, developing language, talking with learners about the world around them and conversations about fiction and non fiction books and stories shared with them.

# Science

In the Explore flow, Science will be taught as a discrete subject in their classroom with access to specialist space / equipment as required, with an emphasis on fostering scientific enquiry. Science will be practical based in Key Stage 2, with increased focus on theory in Key Stages 3 and 4. The importance of working scientifically is emphasised throughout the curriculum. Learners will have the opportunity to access the national curriculum, using scientific enquiry to enable understanding of the real world and problem solving in adulthood. Rich learning opportunities will be provided for learners to explore their own ideas and develop conceptual understanding. Thinking and reasoning is nurtured alongside a host of qualities, including resilience, determination and confidence.

Maths

Maths forms a key part of our curriculum, with learners developing key life skills in problem solving, number and time taught through Maths lessons which enable and provoke mathematical enquiry.

Learners on the Explore flow are taught in their own space with a known adult .Mathematic units on the Explore flow are designed using National Curriculum expectations and adapted to foster engagement, making meaningful and purposeful connections for our learners. Each unit has a progression grid that supports teachers to extend and challenge, building numerical knowledge and skills that will enhance learners critical thinking, spatial awareness, problem solving and number sense helping learners to apply numerical concepts in everyday life.

















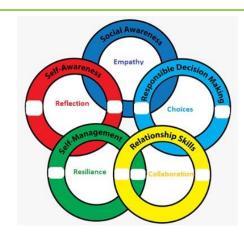
**Subject Learning:** On the Explore Flow, learners will study core subjects delivered by trusted adults in safe spaces. Foundation subjects may be taught either through a thematic approach (History / Geography / RE) or as discrete subjects during (DT, Art, Music, PE, KS4 Options). Learning will build on their interests, providing a vehicle for meaningful, engaging, and fun learning. Explore learners' curriculum is broad and balanced, with ambitious content. PLGs ensure there is a holistic approach to individual needs, while targeted interventions aim to close gaps across all four areas of SEND.

Physical Well Being: Explore learners will experience hands on, fun activities throughout the curriculum. Activities will be designed to cater for the learner's sensory profile, predominantly active, explorational learning with intent to create awe and wonder. The active learning curriculum, Practical Learning Experiences and Positive Learning Experience sessions support physical development and further support learners' ability to assess risks in their environment. Learners also access PE lessons, Food Technology, Forest School, Enrichment, "Pledges" and "99 things to do before your 15¾."



Emotional Literacy: On the Explore Flow learners will have the opportunity to further develop their understanding of how they are feeling. Visuals and verbal support will enable learners to label emotions and accept support to regulate themselves. Learners need support to understand how their decisions impact on the feelings of others. Individual interventions, therapeutic thinking and the My Wellbeing curriculum are used to support this. Learners will focus on communicating their needs, wishes, feelings in an appropriate way in a range of environments. Effective communication is key to their success. Learners will also be supported to identify their likes and dislikes, which may well expose raw responses, reactions and emotions which are not always positive or problem solving.

**Social Literacy:** On the Explore flow, developing social skills is crucial when preparing for adulthood. This will support the learner to make a positive contribution to society. Learners will have opportunities to engage in group sessions, including turn taking, sharing stimuli and experiences. They are improving their capacity to reflect on difficult situations and repair relationships with support. There will also be opportunities to practice social skills in the local and wider community through educational visits, working towards the "Pledges" and "99 things to do before your 15¾."

















# My Next Steps

**Preparing for Adulthood** is a core aspect of the school curriculum. This focuses on enabling learners to develop the skills, knowledge, and behaviours to enjoy the best possible outcomes. Providing them with the cultural capital to be fully active members of society with particular emphasis on:

- Developing literacy, numeracy and problem-solving skills
- Building practical life skills for daily living
- Encouraging positive social interactions and confidence
- Supporting emotional regulation, resilience and self care

This curriculum is designed to support learners needs by providing structured lessons that build independence, resilience, and life skills. High quality teaching and learning will support learners to be effectively prepared for the next stages in life.

Preparing our learners for an effective future will be intertwined across all learning opportunities that are personalised for each learner that is responsive to the needs of the learners, linked to their personalised learning goals.

#### **Preparing for Adulthood** Good health and wellbeing Friendships, Relationships & Independent Living (Life **Employment (Careers)** Community Skills) My Wellbeing (taken from the curriculum document) My Life Skills My Next Steps (taken from the curriculum document) The PSHE curriculum will be delivered discretely using Jigsaw as the main resource. My Wellbeing The curriculum is designed to At NeneGate School, we aim to equip our learners with the knowledge, skills, and attributes needed to reach their full potential in both learning and future work. Our careers program lessons will be supplemented by using resources from the PSHE association, NSPCC and other sources encourage the development of life skills through foundation subjects supports our three pillars and encourages all learners to consider their future aspirations. for themed days. such as DT, Food, Forest School and Through close collaboration with post-16 providers, we help them make informed decisions There is a focus on Communication, Emotional literacy, managing feelings, improving self-esteem and Active Learning.. This includes the about their post-16 options and the flows available to them. opportunity to study vocational Our careers program is embedded across Key Stages 2, 3, and 4 to ensure comprehensive how to improve relationships. qualifications at Key Stage 4. coverage of all Gatsby Benchmarks. This is delivered through tutor time sessions (Key Stage 2: In our KS2 setting all learners have access to a proportion of independent learning, a continuous When I Grow Up; Key Stages 3 and 4: World of Work), as well as through drop-down days and provision style of learning that is underpinned by the principles of learning through play. The amount The introduction of a topic work experience placements for Year 10 learners. We use Compass+ to track our progress of time spent in this state of learning is dependent on the learner's flow; the explore flow is a mix of curriculum develops learners' against the Benchmarks, while learners track their own progress through their Extending the understanding of the wider world Boundaries of Learning Passport. continuous provision and formal learning whilst the discover flow focus' mainly on continuous their place in society, and their role NeneGate School also benefits from support through an Enterprise Coordinator from Growth provision with adult led inputs and adult guided small group sessions. as a global citizen and encourages Works and Form the Future, who deliver the ASK (Apprenticeship Support and Knowledge) Throughout continuous provision elements of PSHE are explicitly and holistically taught, modelled them to make links between the past program, further expanding learners' understanding of post-16 options. We maintain close and scaffolded; learners develop their ability to build and manage relationships, develop their selfand the present. relationships with local FE providers to ensure that learners are well-prepared for the next steps in their education. confidence and self-awareness and support them to manage their feelings and behaviour. As an SEMH special school, NeneGate's careers offer is tailored to meet our learners' specific needs, while promoting inclusivity, equity, and aspiration for all. Our goal is to empower every student to envision and pursue a fulfilling career flow.















**My Progress** 

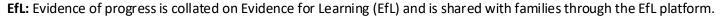
Depending on the learner's priorities and ability, one of a number of 'frameworks' can be used to track progress. Any Framework used is decided on an individual basis and should support the learning in achieving meaningful attainment that contributes to real progress at home and in school.

Learners don't just stop learning when the school day ends therefore, the My Opportunities aspect of the curriculum incorporates learning which is achieved in their wider life experiences and can be shared with school through EfL. We know that 'work' looks different for learners and therefore we value 'work' in whatever form this is captured. Our curriculum expects learners to experience their learning both inside and outside of the classroom. We track their progress and share it with their families and professionals.

#### Assessment tools include:

**PLGs:** Personal Learning goals (PLGs) are short-term targets or steps that a learner needs to experience, achieve, practice and learn which are the small steps towards meeting their EHCP outcomes focusing on five core areas; My Communication, My Learning, My Wellbeing, Myself and My Next Steps. PLGs are reviewed on a half termly basis and progress is monitored through Evidence for Learning (EfL) and individual learners 'My Journeys'.

**Flight paths:** Flight paths have been compiled using existing assessment frameworks and then further developed these into a single assessment flow document for each area of our My Voyage curriculum. These flight paths create the assessment progression for all aspects of our curriculum to show how each step is built on or from prior learning. This does not always expect learning to be linear but gives the opportunity to identify which bits of prior learning has been missed and may identify barriers to sequential learning.



- Little Wandle
- NGRT Reading Assessments
- Asdan
- AQA Awards
- Motional
- Entry Level Functional Skills
- BTEC
- NCFE
- GCSE
- Code Read
- Pledges
- 99 Things



















My Crew

NeneGate School is dedicated to creating a nurturing school environment where all learners can feel safe and thrive. We want to encourage our learners to be the best they can be, to experience success and have hopes and dreams for their future. We pride ourselves on the positive relationships our staff forge with our learners, and we have worked hard together to embed a therapeutic approach to behaviour and relationships.

It is important to us that our learners have empathy and understanding for those around them, can work as part of a team and are engaged in their community. This includes their school, but also the communities in which they live. Our learners come from many different areas and therefore need to experience a range of wider community settings. We aim to do this through trips and visits as well as community activities such as fundraising.

**Crew Members:** We must consider the adults who form part of an individual's support network, in this role they become crew members. At NeneGate school we encourage learners to identify their 'safe adults'. All adults in schools are safe but, for some individual learners, some staff have a natural containment. Their presence during a challenging moment will often calm the waters.

**Community events:** We hold a range of community events throughout the year which support wider community groups or charities. It is important to us that our learners gain an understanding of the needs of their wider community, and through this, have an empathy for the needs and difficulties faced by others.

We engage in frequent community visits and events, such as theatre trips and working alongside local food banks. These support learners and reinforce learning about where we live and who we live with.





















**Pledges:** At NeneGate School we have developed and invested in a broad set of Pledges that learners are expected to complete during the course of their time at the school. Pledges, like the curriculum, will be tailored to each learner's interests. Learners who have siblings who attend another Meridian Trust school will be able to share their pledges success in the same way with equal reward. PLEDGES is an awards system which offers learners a range of opportunities that enhance their learning and development. It is an expectation of every learner to complete their PLEDGES during their time at the academy. The PLEDGES system aims to encourage and support many important qualities in our learners, such as responsibility, leadership, and citizenship, all of which are crucial for ensuring learners are ready for the next stage in their education, training or employment and have brighter futures.



# 99 THINGS TO DO



# 99 Things to do before you're 153/4

At NeneGate, we understand that learning does not just take place in the classroom. We want to challenge learners to try new things and experiences, to help them find what skills and interests they have. 99 things to do before 15 encourages this. Each learner will have these written bespoke to their needs, likes and strengths.



Enrichment: All pupils engage in a programme of enrichment activities which enable them to complete Pledges and 99 things as well as extend their understanding of the worlds and expand their cultural capital. Enrichment activites are diverse and may include: learning languages; music; drama; cultural studies; forest school; sporting activites; enterprise; social activites















# The NeneGate Way

Pupils are met at the door by appropriately dressed staff at the start of the day. They are greeted with a smile, their name and welcoming words. Pupils may transition on their own through school or they may be accompanied by staff, depending on their pathway. At the end of break and lunchtime they line up outside their classrooms, ready to begin learning.

Meet and Greet

Pupils engage in a task as soon as they enter the lesson. This may be a retrieval activity linked to prior learning, or a class teacher may have put in place a transition activity linked to PLGs to support an effective transition between lessons. Teachers arriving at a class base to teach should have an activity ready to go that the pupils can engage in, while they set up the rest of the lesson.

Ready to learn: 'Do Now' Activity

#### Our Voyage

It is important that pupils know the learning objective for each lesson and understand how this lessons fits into the broader | Staff across all pathways and subjects adopt a common structure. This includes an Explanation / I do phase, followed by curriculum. It is important for staff to recognise that every moment of school life can be used as a learning opportunity and to grasp these opportunities when they can. All our staff are valuable and it is important that planning is shared to enable everyone to support the pupils to best effect.

#### **A Common Structure**

'We do' and 'You do' phases. It incorporates regular formative assessment opportunities to check understanding and make any necessary in-class adaptations. This structure allows for staff to adapt school plans to meet the needs of their group and to use strategies that suit their own style of delivery and the interests of pupils.

#### **Scaffolding and Adaptation**

Activities are scaffolded and adapted to meet the needs of pupils across all four areas of SEND. All pupils should be supported to access the curriculum fully. This starts with accurate knowledge of where a pupil is and what they need to enable them to know more and remember more. The deployment of Teaching Assistants is a critical aspect of this adaptation and there should be clear tasks for teaching assistants, so their work is focused on supporting engagement in learning, individual progress and increasing pupil independence.

#### A High Quality Learning Environment

All classrooms may look different so they can meet the needs of individual groups. However, there are standard expectations across all classes. Pupils should always have a visual timetable in the agreed school format. The learning environment should be well ordered and standard equipment needed for lessons should be available in every classroom. Displays should be relevant and include examples of pupils' work. PLGs should be displayed in class bases and pupils and staff should have visual prompts to remind them of their PLGs throughout the day.

#### The power of words: developing a love of reading and expanding vocabulary

We use Little Wandle to teach phonics at Key Stage 2 and Code Read to support learners in Key Stage 3. There are a range of interventions to support pupils in fluency and comprehension, including Sparx Reader and Faster Read. We use the powerful words programme to support the development of Tiers 2 and 3 vocabulary and the teaching of academic vocabulary is explicitly planned for during lessons. We support pupils to develop their emotional and social vocabulary so they can express their wishes and feelings with clarity and confidence.

#### A common language

Staff adopt a therapeutic approach to developing respectful relationships. This includes the use of consistent scripts and emotion coaching techniques as well as a focus on what we DO want pupils to do and what is VALUED behaviour. We also use the language of our pillars: Be engaged, be ambitious, be resilient to discuss behaviours around the school and for and in learning. We use these pillars and the language of respectful relationships to celebrate successes and also during our staff briefings, when we reflect on pupil learning and behaviour and consider how best to support them

#### A Consistent Approach to Regulating Pupils

All pupils identify strategies that they can use when they need to re-regulate. Tier 1 strategies are used independently in class and readily available to pupils. Tier 2 strategies require adult co-regulation inside or outside class and a higher level of support. Tier 3 strategies necessitate the pupils leaving the classroom and taking time to engage in an agreed strategy. All pupils have access to trusted adults and safe spaces to support them with extended periods of dysregulation. The acceptable number of Tier 3 strategies used each day will vary according to pupil pathway and individual need at any time.

#### Supporting each other

Our therapeutic approach extends to staff and how we look after each other. We hold our colleagues in high regard and demonstrate professional respect at all times. We offer support when dealing with difficult situations and prompt colleagues to take time for themselves or step away from a situation when required. We challenge each other professionally and consider how best to support staff wellbeing throughout the year. We celebrate personal and professional successes and extend our inclusive and nurturing approach to all colleagues.